

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 029707
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 /040 R

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DEFENSE/ISA - M. MOUNTAIN (INFO)
COMMERCE/OEA - R. MEYER (INFO)
ENERGY/ISA - J. KRATZ (INFO)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029707

USOECD/EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY

REF: PARIS 3325

1. MAJAK INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT HE HAD RAISED QUESTION OF NEED FOR COCOM CONFIDENTIALITY ON SUCH DOCUMENTS AS "PROCEDURES AND NOTES" DURING HIS RECENT TRIP. HE SAID THE RESPONSE FROM OTHER DELS WAS NOT POSITIVE, BUT THE MESSAGE GOT ACROSS THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN DECLASSIFYING SUCH MATERIAL. THE BRITISH AND NORWEGIANS WERE SYMPATHETIC. THE BRITISH NOTED REFERENCES TO COCOM IN US HEARINGS ON EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENTS AND USED THIS AS A BASIS FOR MAKING SIMILAR REFERENCES IN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS. HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BELGIANS WOULD NOT OBJECT. HE THOUGHT THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH WOULD REACT BADLY AND MAYBE THE DUTCH. HE SAID THAT THE SWEDES WERE ANXIOUS TO BE BETTER INFORMED. HE WAS PLEASED THAT WE WERE EXPLORING THE IDEA.

2. IT IS IMPORTANT TO AT LEAST CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH

OTHER DELS ON THIS POINT. THE JUSTIFICATION COULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) THE PUBLIC KNOWS MUCH MORE ABOUT COCOM THAN IT DID IN THE 1950'S. ITS WORKINGS ARE THEREFORE NOT NEARLY AS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AS THEY WERE AT THAT TIME.

B) COCOM IS MARKING "CONFIDENTIAL" MUCH MATERIAL WHICH, IN SUBSTANCE, IS ALREADY WELL KNOWN. FOR INSTANCE, THE COCOM LIST IS KNOWN IN ITS NATIONAL VARIANTS.

C) IT WOULD HELP TO REMOVE SUSPICIONS OF NON PARALLEL TREATMENT IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IF THE ACTUAL TEXT OF THE COCOM LIST WAS AVAILABLE IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM.

D) THE FACTS OF LIST REVIEWS AND OF PROCESSING OF EXCEPTIONS ARE WELL KNOWN. IT WOULD SIMILARLY BE USEFUL TO EXPORTERS TO KNOW IN DETAIL HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS. NONE OF THESE PROCEDURES ARE IN THE LEAST SENSITIVE.

E) IT WOULD HELP TO OBTAIN INFORMAL PARALLEL ACTION FROM NON-MEMBERS, SUCH AS SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA, IF THE DETAILS OF THE LISTS AND OF THE PROCEDURES WERE KNOWN. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, INFORMATION CONTROL, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802113/aaaafphk.tel
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970827
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TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, ESTC
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